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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report provides information on statewide trends affecting children and families in Nevada. The report is comprised of eight sections: an overview; Nevada's demographic profile; key facts regarding children in the state; Nevada's comparison to the rest of the United States; trends in the state; indicators of child well-being; references; and definitions and data sources. Sixteen indicators are utilized to describe the quality of life: (1) percent of low birth-weight babies; (2) infant mortality rate; (3) trend data of children in poverty; (4) single parent families; (5) families in poverty; (6) teen birth rate; (7) unmarried teen birth rate; (8) high school dropouts and graduates; (9) teens not in school and not working; (10) child death rate; (11) child abuse and neglect report rate; (12) child maltreatment report trends; (13) percent and type of child maltreatment; (14) juvenile violent crime arrest rate; (15) teen violent death rate; and (16) teen suicide rate. Some key facts about Nevada's children are: (1) the teen birth rate has risen more than twice as fast as the national rate; (2) Nevada ranked 45th in the nation on the immunization rate of 2-year-olds; (3) the juvenile violent crime arrest rate increased by 49%; (4) the infant mortality rate is improving; (5) the median hourly wage for child-care workers is just below the national average; and (6) 22% of children under age 13 live in low-income, working families. (LBT)

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NEVADA kids count Data Book

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Sources used for the data in this book are listed on pages 55-59. These sources remain the final authority regarding the quality and meaning of the data.

1998 NEVADA KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

NEVADA KIDS COUNT
is a project of:

WE CAN, Inc.

in collaboration with

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Moments in the Lives of Nevada Children

Every 25 minutes a child was reported abused or neglected.

Every 3 hours a baby was born to a teen-age mother.

Every 5 hours a baby was born at low birth weight.

Every 3 days a baby died during the first year of life.

Every 8 days a child or youth was killed by a gun.

Children's Defense Fund, 1998

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"I regard our children as the most essential ingredient to the future of the state of Nevada. As Nevadans, we must do everything possible to transform the statistics brought to light by the Nevada KIDS COUNT project. Thank you WE CAN and Nevada KIDS COUNT for your wonderful efforts to promote a better life for Nevada's children."

Governor Elect, Kenny Guinn

Foreword

The *1998 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book* is the second annual data book published by the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project. In 1996, WE CAN received a KIDS COUNT grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropic foundation dedicated exclusively to disadvantaged children. Through this grant, WE CAN, in partnership with the University of Nevada Center for Business and Economic Research, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the State of Nevada, Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Support Committee and the Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council, developed and launched **Nevada KIDS COUNT.**

As our first effort to comprehensively measure the status and well-being of children in Nevada, the purpose of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** is not only to collect and analyze data, but also to translate those findings into public-policy changes to improve life outcomes for the children of our state. By making quality information concerning Nevada's children and their families readily available to all citizens, the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project seeks to increase public awareness concerning the condition of children in Nevada and to promote the integration of KIDS COUNT information into decision-making processes at all levels of government. The ultimate goal is to improve policy development, program planning and the provision of services for children and families in our state.

To this end, the *1998 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book* is designed for a wide audience including state and local policymakers, planners, service providers, advocates for children, civic and religious leaders, the business community, the media and the citizens of Nevada. As we move into the twenty-first century, the development of effective policies, programs and strategies to improve the future for all children must become our top priority.

Dr. Paula R. Ford, Chair
Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council
Executive Director, WE CAN, Inc.

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Partners

Nevada KIDS COUNT

WE CAN, Inc., founded in 1975, is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse in all its forms and working to improve the quality of life for children and families in Nevada. As the state chapter of the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, WE CAN works to build a statewide commitment to improving the lives of children and families in Nevada by providing public awareness, education, training, advocacy, and educational publications.

The Center for Business and Economic Research, located at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is a university-based organization, founded in 1975, which offers research and analysis services to public, private and governmental entities and provides data collection, data analysis and interpretation services on the social, economic and demographic impacts of events and policy initiatives in Nevada.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, with offices in 16 of the 17 counties in Nevada, is an educational outreach unit of the University of Nevada, Reno. The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension provides educational programs throughout the state by conducting needs assessments, designing and delivering educational programs and conducting evaluation studies.

The Nevada Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Family Support Committee, a statewide steering committee based on federal legislation, has inclusive geographical and organizational representation. The Title IV-B Committee developed and guided the implementation of the *Nevada Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Family Support Five-Year Plan* that was submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services in 1995.

The Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council, formally established in 1995, is a dedicated, 33-member council that includes statewide representation from a wide range of diverse organizations working with children or families in Nevada. This broad-based representation encompasses state government, county governments, public and private agencies, Nevada KIDS COUNT partners, data partners, data providers and the business community.

Introduction

Nevada KIDS COUNT

In 1996, WE CAN was fortunate to receive funding to develop and implement a KIDS COUNT project in Nevada through the generosity of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. **Nevada KIDS COUNT** is part of a national and state-by-state effort by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States and advocate for public policies to improve the lives of all children. The Casey Foundation supports KIDS COUNT projects in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and also publishes the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, which presents a comparative statistical profile on the condition of children in the United States. The state KIDS COUNT projects provide a more detailed, county-by-county statistical perspective on the condition and needs of children in each state.

The **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project is a statewide, collaborative effort that brings together a wide range of organizations and agencies involved with children and families in Nevada. This inclusive and collaborative representation provides the broad-based support necessary to ensure success in achieving the mission of the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project. By providing policymakers and citizens with the best available data on the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children in our state, **Nevada KIDS COUNT** seeks to improve the lives and futures of all our children.

Nevada KIDS COUNT Goals

The goals of the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project are to:

- **Identify** the needs of Nevada children by collecting the best available data on the condition of children in the state and publishing the ***Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** annually;
- **Educate** policymakers and citizens by utilizing the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** statistics to spotlight current problems facing Nevada's children;
- **Advocate** for action on behalf of children and families in Nevada by promoting the integration of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** data into decision-making processes at all levels in the state.

Overview

Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book

The ***Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** is a profile of children in Nevada. The 1998 Data Book provides a statistical portrait of children in the state by looking at 16 indicators that affect the lives of children. The indicators reflect a broad range of conditions that influence the well-being of children and span the developmental stages from birth through adolescence. By examining the best available data in the 17 counties of Nevada, the Data Book provides an information base that can spur more effective policy and community action on behalf of children. It is important to note that in counties with small populations, calculated rates may not be meaningful. It is recommended that rates based on small numbers be interpreted with caution.

The 1998 Data Book is divided into eight sections:

- **Overview:** A summary of the Data Book and Indicators.
- **Nevada Demographic Profile:** A demographic picture of Nevada's children and families.
- **Key Facts About Nevada's Children:** A snapshot of important facts on the condition of Nevada's children.
- **Nevada Compared to the Nation:** A graphic display of how Nevada compares to the nation on the indicators.
- **Nevada Trends:** A graphic display of trends in Nevada on the indicators over time.
- **Indicators of Child Well-Being:** A county-by-county look at Nevada's children by indicators of well-being.
- **Endnotes:** The references and bibliographic section.
- **Definitions and Data Sources**

Indicators of Child Well-Being

The Indicators of Child Well-Being for the1998 Data Book are divided into five main categories crucial to quality of life for Nevada's children. This year, the indicators examined are:

Health

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies
Infant Mortality Rate

Economic Well-Being

Percent of Children in Poverty: Trend Data
Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent
Percent of Families in Poverty
Teen Birth Rate
Unmarried Teen Birth Rate

Education

Percent of High School Dropouts and Graduates
Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working

Child Safety

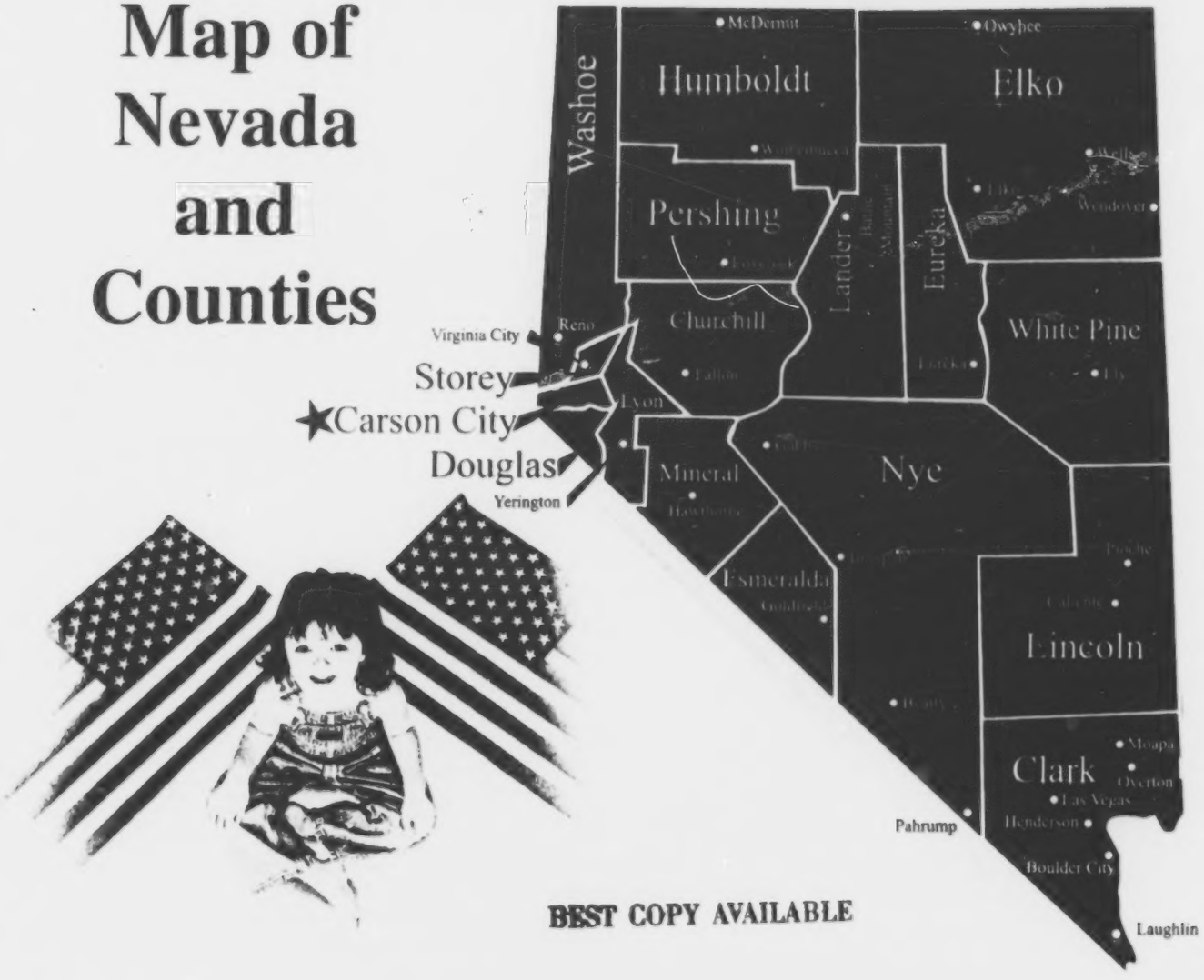
Child Death Rate
Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate
Child Maltreatment Report Trends
Percent and Type of Child Maltreatment

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate
Teen Violent Death Rate
Teen Suicide Rate

It is the hope of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** that the 1998 Data Book will empower community leaders, policymakers, advocates and individuals to work toward changes that will improve the quality of life for all of Nevada's children.

Map of Nevada and Counties



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Map of Nevada and Counties

Nevada Demographic Profile

Nevada Demographics

State Population 1,779,850*
(1997)

Clark County 1,192,200*
Percent of Population: 67 %

Washoe County 308,700*
Percent of Population: 17 %

Land Area, sq. mi. 109,806*
U.S. Rank: 7

Labor Force

Percent Employed: 65.4*
(Civilian population, 1996)

Percent Employed: 4.6*
(Manufacturing, 1996)

Education

Enrollment Rate: 94.9*
(Elementary/Secondary Schools, ages 5-17)

Average Teacher's Salary: $36,167*
(1995)

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Nevada Child Demographics

Child Population 510,263*
(19 and under, 1997)

Percent of Children 29*
(19 and under, 1997)

Percent of Poor Children 17*
(18 and under, 1994)

Percent of Children Immunized 71*
(2 and under, 1996) **State Rank: 45**

Percent of Children W/O Health Insurance 19*
(18 and under, 1994-1996) **State Rank: 45**

Demographic Change
Number of Children: 1996 and 2003

	1996	2003	% Change
0 - 5 years old	152,599	176,646	16%
6-12 years old	172,840	222,539	29%
13-17 years old	110,383	159,456	45%
All children, under 18	435,822	558,641	28%

Source: Nevada State Demographer, 1997

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Age Distribution: Nevada and Counties

Age Distribution: Nevada and Counties, 1997							
	Age Distribution					Percent	Total
	4 & Under	5-19	20-44	45-64	65+	19 & Under	Population
Carson City	3,505	9,500	17,446	12,059	7,901	26%	50,411
Churchill County	**1,831**	**5,534**	**8,396**	**4,935**	**3,165**	**31%**	**23,861**
Clark County	96,252	247,574	443,858	262,491	142,026	29%	1,192,200
Douglas County	**1,911**	**8,581**	**13,281**	**10,234**	**5,585**	**27%**	**39,592**
Elko County	4,020	12,391	18,375	9,690	3,236	34%	47,712
Esmeralda County	**60**	**282**	**515**	**419**	**188**	**23%**	**1,464**
Eureka County	85	375	604	413	187	28%	1,664
Humboldt County	**1,521**	**4,389**	**6,581**	**3,564**	**1,467**	**34%**	**17,522**
Lander County	616	1,935	2,623	1,428	433	36%	7,035
Lincoln County	**216**	**980**	**1,387**	**854**	**676**	**29%**	**4,113**
Lyon County	1,839	6,961	9,469	7,023	5,076	29%	30,368
Mineral County	**438**	**1,609**	**2,286**	**1,465**	**1,060**	**30%**	**6,858**
Nye County	1,474	5,781	9,072	7,012	4,273	26%	27,612
Pershing County	**464**	**1,715**	**2,260**	**1,359**	**802**	**33%**	**6,600**
Storey County	104	697	1,174	1,081	465	23%	3,521
Washoe County	**23,742**	**61,021**	**117,998**	**71,004**	**34,933**	**27%**	**308,700**
White Pine County	617	2,416	3,803	2,389	1,410	29%	10,635
Nevada *	138,657	371,606	659,318	397,520	212,744	29%	1,779,850

* *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
Source: Nevada State Demographer, 1997

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Nevada Demographic Profile

Nevada's Families

Median Household Income (1995, constant 1994 dollars)	**$36,084***
Per Capita Personal Income (1996, constant 1992 dollars)	**$23,171***
Percent of Public Aid Recipients (1994, percent of population)	**3.8***
Percent of Families in Poverty (1990, percent of families)	**23.7***
Percent of Single-Parent Families (1990, percent of families)	**28.0***
Percent of Female-Headed Families in Poverty (1990, percent of families in poverty)	**55.9***
Homeownership Rate (1996, percent)	**61.1***
Retail Sales Per Household (1995, dollars per household)	**$26,900***

** See Definitions and Data Sources*

Nevada's Children

Percent of Children Covered by Medicaid (1996 fiscal year)	**19***
Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies (1995-1997)	**7.6***
Number of Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect (1997)	**5,204***
Number of Children in Foster Care (1995)	**1,823***
Number of Children Benefiting From Food Stamps (1997)	**52,000***

Demographic Change
Race/Ethnicity of Children: 1996 and 2003

	1996	2003	% Change
White	302,256	363,899	20%
Black	37,828	50,797	34%
Hispanic	75,192	117,931	57%
Asian and Pacific Islander	13,044	16,885	29%
Native American	7,508	9,129	22%
All Children Under Age 18	435,828	558,641	28%

Source: Nevada State Demographer, 1997

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Race/Ethnic Distribution: Nevada and Counties

Race/Ethnic Distribution: Nevada and Counties, 1997

	Race/Ethnic Distribution					Total
	Caucasian	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Indian	Population
Carson City	42,723	4,877	803	666	1,341	50,410
Churchill County	20,190	1,567	310	643	1,149	23,859
Clark County	866,005	161,694	117,041	38,526	8,935	1,192,200
Douglas County	35,537	2,618	123	499	813	39,590
Elko County	37,188	7,145	330	353	2,695	47,711
Esmeralda County	1,219	147	7	11	74	1,458
Eureka County	1,438	160	5	11	46	1,660
Humboldt County	12,857	3,612	89	73	889	17,520
Lander County	5,728	1,000	10	16	275	7,029
Lincoln County	3,740	196	89	19	67	4,111
Lyon County	26,433	2,705	100	211	920	30,369
Mineral County	5,079	638	352	67	724	6,860
Nye County	24,050	2,165	410	240	745	27,610
Pershing County	5,099	1,161	18	34	290	6,602
Storey County	3,260	143	12	41	64	3,520
Washoe County	249,914	35,199	6,758	11,284	5,547	308,700
White Pine County	9,021	1,065	196	37	320	10,639
Nevada *	1,350,625	225,820	125,535	52,787	25,084	1,779,850

* *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: Nevada State Demographer, 1997

Key Facts About Nevada's Children

In a national, state-by-state study reporting on conditions facing America's children, the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ranks Nevada 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The state rankings are arranged in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (51). Between 1985 and 1995, the well-being of children in Nevada deteriorated in six areas, improved in three and stayed the same in one. The following highlights from the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, provide a snapshot of Nevada's children as compared to the nation:

- **The Teen Birth Rate in Nevada Has Risen More Than Twice as Fast as the National Rate.**

  The teen birth rate (births to females ages 15-17) in Nevada increased more than twice as quickly as the national rate. Nevada has a national rank of 42 on this measure.

- **Nevada Ranked 45th in the Nation on the Immunization Rate of 2-Year-Olds.**

- **Nearly Half of the Young Children in Nevada Are Not Enrolled in Preschool.**

  Forty-six percent of 3- to 5-year-olds in Nevada were not enrolled in any type of nursery school or kindergarten in 1993, despite important evidence demonstrating that preschool helps prepare young children for school. Nationally, 40 percent of 3- to 5-year-old children are not enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten. Nevada ranked 39th in the nation.

- **The Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate in Nevada Increased by 49 Percent.**

- **The Teen Dropout Rate in Nevada Is Rising.**

  Despite a national trend in the opposite direction, the percentage of Nevada teens who are high school dropouts rose 8 percent between 1985 and 1995. Nevada ranked 50th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia on this measure.

- **The Infant Mortality Rate in Nevada Is Improving.**

  Nevada had a 33 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate between 1985 and 1995 and ranked 4th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Key Facts About Nevada's Children

- **Nevada Ranked 45th in the Nation on the Percent of Children Lacking Health Insurance.**

- **The Majority of Children in Nevada Are Living With Parents Who Are Working.**

  In Nevada, 64 percent of children under the age of 6 and 60 percent of children ages 6-12 are living with parents who are working, according to 1995 data. With more than half of Nevada's children having parents who work, there is a clear need for reliable and affordable child care.

- **The Median Hourly Wage for Child-Care Workers Is Just Below the National Average.**

  According to 1996 data, the median hourly wage for child-care workers in Nevada is $5.97. This is just below the national median hourly wage for child-care workers at $6.12. The average worker in Nevada earns a median hourly wage of $10.56.

- **The Mathematics Level of Students in Nevada Is Worse Than the National Average.**

  Forty-three percent of fourth-grade students scored below the basic math level in 1996, compared to 38 percent nationwide.

- **The Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide and Suicide in Nevada Is Increasing.**

  Between 1985 and 1995, Nevada had a 12 percent increase in the rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide and suicide. Nevada ranked 41st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

- **The Percent of Low Birth-Weight Babies in Nevada Increased During the Past Decade.**

  During the past decade, the percent of low birth-weight babies in Nevada increased by 7 percent. Nevada ranked 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

- **In Nevada, 22 Percent of Children Under Age 13, Live in Low-Income, Working Families.**

Nevada Compared to the Nation

1995 data unless otherwise noted

INDICATORS	% Worse / % Better	National Rate	Nevada Rate	Percent Worse/Better
Percent low birth-weight babies	-1%	7.3	7.4	-1%
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	25%	7.6	5.7	25%
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	-11%	28	31	-11%
Teen violent death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	-26%	65	82	-26%
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17)	-22%	36	44	-22%
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17)*	24%	507	384	24%
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)*	-40%	10	14	-40%
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)*	-33%	9	12	-33%
Percent of children in poverty**	33%	21	14	33%
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent*	0%	26	26	0%

-60% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% 60%

* Three-year average of data from 1993 through 1995

** Five-year average of data from 1992 through 1996

Source: *1998 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Nevada Trends

Percent Change 1985 to 1995

INDICATORS	% Worse / % Better	1985	1995	Percent Change
Percent low birth-weight babies	-7%	6.9	7.4	-7%
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	33%	8.5	5.7	33%
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	3%	32	31	3%
Teen violent death rate* (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	-12%	73	82	-12%
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17)	-42%	31	44	-42%
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17)	-49%	257	384	-49%
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	-8%	13	14	-8%
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)	8%	13	12	8%
Percent of children in poverty	0%	14	14	0%
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent	-4%	25	26	-4%

-60% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% 60%

* See Definitions and Data Sources

Source: *1998 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being.* Annie E. Casey Foundation

Low Birth-Weight Babies

Definition

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies
Babies considered to have low birth weights are those weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. Low birth-weight data are reported as the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams. The data are reported by mother's county of residence, rather than infant's place of birth.

Significance

How much a baby weighs at birth is directly related to the baby's survival, health and development. Babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth are more likely to experience both physical and developmental problems. At highest risk are babies weighing less than 3.3 pounds. These tiny infants are more likely to suffer from chronic respiratory problems, visual and hearing problems, related medical conditions, mental retardation and learning disabilities.[1]

Risk Factors

Smoking during pregnancy has been associated with 20 to 30 percent of low birth-weight births and 10 percent of infant deaths. Poverty, inadequate prenatal care, lack of health insurance and premature birth also are risk factors linked to low birth-weight babies.[2]

Impact

- Although important gains have been made in our ability to sustain babies who are born small, low birth weight remains the number one cause of infant mortality in the United States.[3]
- Babies who are born weighing less than 5.5 pounds are more likely to require special education. Nearly 50 percent of all low birth-weight infants will, at some point in their lives, enter special education programs.[4]
- As a result of recent technological advances in neonatal treatment and procedures, infants weighing less than 1.5 pounds at birth are currently surviving. These babies often suffer from health and developmental disabilities that could have been prevented with good prenatal care.[5]
- African-American babies are twice as likely as white babies to be born weighing less than 5.5 pounds.[6]
- The estimated cost to the nation for health problems related to low birth-weight babies is more than $4 billion each year.[7]

Nevada

Between 1995 and 1997, the Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies in Nevada was **7.6**. Of the 77,871 babies born during this period, 5,881 weighed less than 5.5 pounds. According to the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, the 1995 Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies in the United States was 7.3.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies ranged from a low of 5.6 in Pershing County to a high of 9.7 in White Pine County (excluding Esmeralda and Storey counties whose calculated percentages were not meaningful). Seven Nevada counties had a percentage of low birth-weight babies that was higher than the state rate of **7.6**.

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 25**[8]

"Cigarette smoking is unequivocally the largest and most important known modifiable risk factor for low birth weight and infant death."[9]

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies,* 1995 - 1997

	1995 Number <2,500 Grams	1995 Total Number of Births	1996 Number <2,500 Grams	1996 Total Number of Births	1997 Number <2,500 Grams	1997 Total Number of Births	Low Birth-Weight Rates 1995-1997
Carson City	49	712	38	662	38	705	6.0%
Churchill County	19	369	22	349	28	389	6.2%
Clark County	1,229	16,755	1,350	17,574	1,498	18,471	7.7%
Douglas County	18	292	8	234	22	286	5.9%
Elko County	52	721	46	759	48	732	6.6%
Esmeralda County	2	12	2	6	0	9	N.M ****
Eureka County	2	20	1	20	2	20	8.3% **
Humboldt County	19	304	22	321	15	297	6.1%
Lander County	13	99	13	154	6	128	8.4%
Lincoln County	1	47	7	41	2	42	7.7%
Lyon County	31	322	22	319	20	341	7.4%
Mineral County	9	103	5	68	7	69	8.8% **
Nye County	26	251	25	251	25	291	9.6%
Pershing County	5	62	4	78	3	76	5.6% **
Storey County	2	17	0	8	0	9	N.M ****
Washoe County	338	4,655	352	4,710	308	4,669	7.1%
White Pine County	16	115	8	120	11	127	9.7%
Nevada ***	1,881	25,175	1,984	26,035	2,033	26,661	7.6%

* *(2,500 grams = 5.5 pounds) Based on mother's county of residence, rather than infant's place of birth*

** *Percents and rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Infant Mortality

Definition

Infant Mortality Rate
The Infant Mortality Rate measures the number of babies who die during their first year of life per 1,000 births. The data are reported by county of residence, rather than place of death.

Significance

The Infant Mortality Rate is a critical indicator of the overall health and welfare of a nation. Because babies are most vulnerable during their first year of life, poor environmental or economic conditions have a significant impact on their health, well-being and survival.[9]

Risk Factors

Communities with multiple problems such as poverty, substandard housing, illiteracy and unemployment tend to have higher Infant Mortality Rates. A recent study cited by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that the Infant Mortality Rate for poor families was more than 50 percent higher than for families with incomes above the poverty line.[10] Low birth weight, lack of prenatal care, inadequate nutrition, lack of education, premature birth, child maltreatment and poverty all increase the risk of infant mortality.[11]

Impact

- Although the Infant Mortality Rate in the United States has been falling steadily over the past few decades, America still has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the developed world.[12] In 1996, the United States ranked 28th in infant mortality worldwide.[13]
- African-American babies still die at more than twice the rate of white babies in our country. This is true despite the progress made overall.[14]
- Because infant mortality levels reflect the effectiveness of social and health-care measures, improving infant mortality also requires improving the social, economic, environmental and political disparity linked to poor outcomes for children.[15]
- Infant mortality is a barometer of our society as a whole. High rates of infant mortality suggest poor access to health care, lack of prenatal care and high levels of poverty. Children born into poor families also are less likely to have the benefit of health insurance or the opportunity to receive neonatal intensive-care services.[16]

Nevada

Between 1995 and 1997, the Infant Mortality Rate in Nevada was 5.9. Of the 77,871 babies born during this period, 459 infants died before they reached their first birthday. In comparison, according to the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, the 1995 Infant Morality Rate in the United States was 7.6.

Counties

Among the nine counties in Nevada for which statistically reliable rates could be calculated, the Infant Mortality Rate ranged from a low of 3.7 in Douglas County to a high of 10.8 in Humboldt County. For the eight counties in which the calculated rates were not meaningful because of small population numbers, raw numbers are provided. Of the nine Nevada counties for which rates could be calculated, five had Infant Mortality Rates higher than the state rate of 5.9.

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 4**[17]

"Despite declines in recent decades, the U.S. infant mortality ranks among the highest in the industrialized nations."[18]

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality Rate, 1995 - 1997
(Deaths to infants less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births)

	1995 Infant Deaths	1995 Number of Births	1996 Infant Deaths	1996 Number of Births	1997 Infant Deaths	1997 Number of Births	Infant Mortality Rates 1995-1997	
Carson City	5	712	5	662	5	705	7.2	
Churchill County	2	369	3	349	3	389	7.2	
Clark County	89	16,755	108	17,574	115	18,471	5.9	
Douglas County	0	292	2	234	1	286	3.7	*
Elko County	6	721	4	759	3	732	5.9	
Esmeralda County	0	12	0	6	0	9	N.M.	***
Eureka County	1	20	0	20	0	20	N.M.	***
Humboldt County	3	304	4	321	3	297	10.8	*
Lander County	0	99	2	154	0	128	N.M.	***
Lincoln County	0	47	0	41	1	42	N.M.	***
Lyon County	1	322	4	319	1	341	6.1	*
Mineral County	0	103	2	68	0	69	N.M.	***
Nye County	2	251	1	251	3	291	7.6	*
Pershing County	0	62	0	78	1	76	N.M.	***
Storey County	0	17	0	8	0	9	N.M.	***
Washoe County	29	4,655	20	4,710	28	4,669	5.5	
White Pine County	0	115	2	120	0	127	N.M.	***
Nevada **	138	25,175	157	26,035	164	26,661	5.9	

* *Percents and rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
*** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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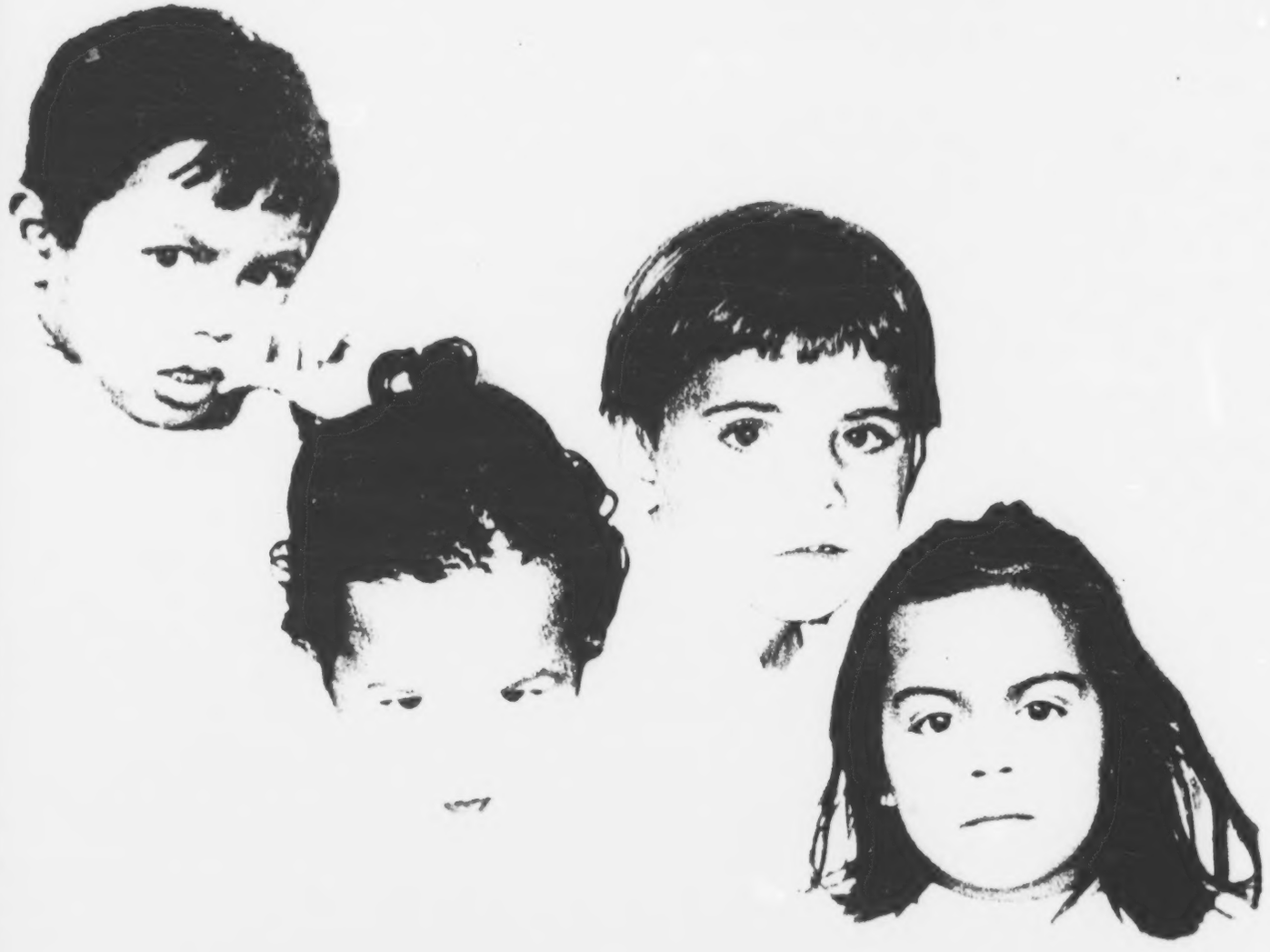
Economic Well-Being



Economic Well-Being

Children in Poverty

Definition

Percent of Children in Poverty
The Percent of Children in Poverty is the percentage of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. The poverty threshold is defined as three times the amount it takes to feed a family of four for one year.

Significance

Child poverty in the United States is among the highest in the world. The percentage of children in poverty is one of the most extensively used measurers of child well-being. Child poverty is associated with many poor outcomes for children including illness, poor school performance and delinquency.[20]

Risk Factors

Child poverty is related to every other KIDS COUNT indicator. Children whose parents have not graduated from high school have a greatly increased risk of being poor.[21] Poor children are at greater risk for homelessness, child maltreatment, substandard housing, poor nutrition and dying in infancy.[22] Poverty puts children at greater risk of stunted growth, anemia in childhood, low educational attainment and lower earnings in adulthood.[23]

Impact

- Poor children are three times more likely to die in childhood than children who are not poor.[24]
- A baby who is born poor is less likely to survive the first year of life than a baby who is born to an unwed mother, a high school dropout or a mother who smoked in pregnancy.[25]
- A shocking 22.7 percent of all American children under the age of six are living in poverty.[26]
- There is significant movement into and out of poverty each year. Those with incomes near the poverty level are at risk of falling into poverty from typical life transitions.[27]
- Children who grow up in poverty are less likely to eat a nutritious diet, to stay warm in the winter, to graduate from high school or to receive adequate health care.[28]
- Poor children are more likely to go without necessary food and clothing, live in substandard housing, lack basic medical care and have unequal access to educational opportunities.[29]
- A child living in poverty is much more likely to become a teen parent and a victim of crime or violence.[30]

Nevada

Between 1990 and 1994, the number of poor children in Nevada increased from 38,232 in 1990 to 64,454 in 1994. Nevada had a moderate increase in the Percent of Children in Poverty from **15.3** in 1990 to **16.7** in 1994. This represents an annual increase of **1.4** percent.[31]

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of children in poverty ranged from a low of 8.0 percent in Eureka County to a high of 18.6 percent in Clark County. Esmeralda County experienced the greatest change between 1990 and 1994, with a decrease in its child poverty rate by an average of 7.2 percent per year. In 1994, only Clark County had a higher percentage of children living in poverty than the state rate of **16.7**.[32]

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 10**[33]

"Child poverty is America's most shameful deficit. It saps both our children's potential and our nation's future strength."[34]

Marian Wright Edelman, 1998

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Percent of Children in Poverty: Trend Data

Percent of Children in Poverty:* Trend Data
(Children under age 18)

	1990 Number of Children in Poverty	1990 Percent of Children in Poverty **	1994 Number of Children in Poverty	1994 Percent of Children in Poverty	Annual Rate of Change 1990-1994
Carson City	880	11.0%	1,427	13.3%	3.2%
Churchill County	543	12.1%	707	11.5%	-0.8%
Clark County	25,371	16.8%	45,974	18.6% ***	1.7%
Douglas County	602	9.4%	786	8.7%	-1.3%
Elko County	1,182	12.8%	1,242	8.9%	-5.7%
Esmeralda County	60	24.6%	43	15.3%	-7.2%
Eureka County	46	12.3%	32	8.0%	-6.6%
Humboldt County	487	14.7%	557	11.3%	-4.2%
Lander County	235	12.6%	200	8.3%	-6.4%
Lincoln County	174	18.1%	174	14.0%	-4.1%
Lyon County	811	18.6%	1,062	15.5%	-3.0%
Mineral County	211	14.2%	262	15.0%	1.0%
Nye County	506	13.7%	843	14.6%	1.0%
Pershing County	189	16.5%	203	14.0%	-2.6%
Storey County	39	7.4%	57	8.6%	2.6%
Washoe County	6,546	13.0%	10,499	14.9%	2.3%
White Pine County	350	16.3%	387	15.4%	-1.0%
Nevada	**38,232**	**15.3%**	**64,454**	**16.7%**	**1.4% ***

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*
** *Revised*
*** *The confidence intervals on these change measures (numbers and/or rates) do not overlap, suggesting that real change occurred*
Sources: Applied Population Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison & 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Children in Single-Parent Families

Definition

Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent
This indicator is defined as the percentage of families with, "own children," under the age of 18 (headed by either a male or female) without a spouse present in the home. "Own children" is defined as never-married children related by birth, marriage or adoption.

Significance

Children living in single-parent families do not have the same resources and opportunities as those living in two-parent families.[35] When the single parent is a woman, the risk of sinking into poverty is significantly greater due to the wide earnings gap between men and women in the United States.[36]

Risk Factors

Many single mothers receive insufficient child support, which puts their children at greater risk for all of the adverse outcomes linked to poverty. Children growing up in single-parent families are at greater risk of homelessness, substandard housing, poor nutrition, lack of adequate medical care and dying in infancy or childhood.[37]

Impact

- Sixty percent of all children in the United States today will spend some part of their childhood in a single-parent family.[38]
- Children who are born into single-parent families will have far fewer financial resources than children who are born into two-parent families and end up in single-parent families because of divorce. Generally, never-married parents are significantly younger than divorced parents and tend to have fewer years of education and lower income levels.[39]
- Sixty-nine percent of never-married mothers and 45 percent of divorced mothers with children under the age of 18 had incomes at or below the poverty threshold in 1995.[40]
- Young women from single-parent families give birth as teenagers more frequently than young women from two-parent families.[41]
- Of the single-parent families headed by mothers, less than one-third received child-support payments or alimony in 1994.[42]

Nevada

In Nevada, **28** percent of families with children were headed by a single parent, according to the 1990 Census. Of the 153,893 families in Nevada, a total of 43,096 were single-parent families. In comparison, the 1995 Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent in the United States was 26 percent.[43]

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent ranged from a low of 11 percent in Eureka County to a high of 30.3 percent in Clark County. Only two counties, Clark and Mineral, had a higher percentage of single-parent families than the state rate of **28** percent.

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 31**[44]

"In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again..." [45]

James Agee

Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent

Percent of Families* With Children Headed by a Single Parent				
	Single-Parent Families With Children	Two-Parent Families With Children	Total Number of Families	Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent
Carson City	1,344	3,541	4,885	27.5%
Churchill County	518	1,987	2,505	20.7%
Clark County	28,435	65,459	93,894	30.3%
Douglas County	803	2,956	3,759	21.4%
Elko County	1,061	4,197	5,258	20.2%
Esmeralda County	38	116	154	24.7%
Eureka County	22	178	200	11.0%
Humboldt County	363	1,516	1,879	19.3%
Lander County	175	859	1,034	16.9%
Lincoln County	94	372	466	20.2%
Lyon County	578	2,108	2,686	21.5%
Mineral County	259	653	912	28.4%
Nye County	410	1,791	2,201	18.6%
Pershing County	122	495	617	19.8%
Storey County	63	252	315	20.0%
Washoe County	8,573	23,334	31,907	26.9%
White Pine County	238	983	1,221	19.5%
Nevada	43,096	110,797	153,893	28.0%

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Families in Poverty

Definition

Percent of Families in Poverty
This indicator is defined as the percentage of families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. The poverty threshold is defined as three times the amount it takes to feed a family of four for one year. This indicator also looks at the percentage of families in poverty by type of family, e.g., female-headed, male-headed and two-parent families.

Significance

A generation of families with parents under the age of 30 experienced a steep decline in income over the last two decades. The typical median income of young two-parent families has dropped by 33 percent.[28] Virtually every category of young families with children has suffered major income losses.

Risk Factors

The children of poor families are most vulnerable to the lasting damage of poverty. Even a few years spent in poverty during a child's first years of life, significantly decreases learning ability and the potential to successfully complete school.[29] Families in poverty are at risk of homelessness, lack of medical care, substandard housing, poor nutrition, child maltreatment and substance abuse.[30]

Impact

- Over the past two decades, incomes have fallen by 12 percent for young families headed by married couples, 24 percent for families headed by single fathers and 22 percent for families headed by single mothers.[31]
- Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable for young families in the United States. The percentage of parents under 30 who own their own home has dwindled from 47 percent in 1980 to 33 percent in 1994.[32]
- In the wake of welfare reform, more families are working but still living in poverty without the means to provide health insurance or adequate child care for their children.[33]
- At a time in their lives when they should be able to retire and enjoy the fruits of their labor, many grandparents find it necessary to help support the families of their adult children. Grandparents increasingly find they must share their homes and resources to keep their children and grandchildren out of poverty.[34]
- In today's world, a high school diploma provides little protection against the onslaught of poverty.[35]

Nevada

The Percent of Families in Poverty in Nevada was **23.7**. Of the 36,455 families in poverty, **55.9** percent were headed by females; **6.7** percent were headed by males and **37.3** percent were headed by couples.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Percent of Families in Poverty ranged from a low of 11.1 in Storey County to a high of 36.9 in Lincoln County. The percentage of poor families headed by females ranged from a low of 31.8 in Eureka County to a high of 84.3 in Lincoln County; the percentage headed by males ranged from a low of 0 in Esmeralda and Lincoln counties to a high of 31.4 in Storey County; and the percentage headed by couples ranged from a low of 15.7 in Lincoln County to a high of 59.1 in Eureka County.

"Many families are simply broke, often through no fault of their own...We are afflicted by a poverty of riches that lets children be the poorest group of citizens. Instead of defining success by how wealthy the few at the top are, we need to measure it by how many we lift out of poverty."[36]

Marian Wright Edelman, 1998

Percent of Families in Poverty

Percent of Families* in Poverty*

	Total Number of All Families	Number in Poverty: Female Headed	Male Headed	Married Couple	Total Families in Poverty	Percent in Poverty Headed by Females	Percent in Poverty Headed by Males	Percent in Poverty Headed by Couple	Percent of Families in Poverty
Carson City	4,885	360	28	441	829	43.4%	3.4%	53.2%	17.0%
Churchill County	2,505	272	20	230	522	52.1%	3.8%	44.1%	20.8%
Clark County	93,894	14,663	1,564	8,127	24,354	60.2%	6.4%	33.4%	25.9%
Douglas County	3,759	245	59	273	577	42.5%	10.2%	47.3%	15.3%
Elko County	5,258	497	71	539	1,107	44.9%	6.4%	48.7%	21.1%
Esmeralda County	154	25	0	27	52	48.1%	0.0%	51.9%	33.8%
Eureka County	200	14	4	26	44	31.8%	9.1%	59.1%	22.0%
Humboldt County	1,879	263	37	172	472	55.7%	7.8%	36.4%	25.1%
Lander County	1,034	106	3	110	219	48.4%	1.4%	50.2%	21.2%
Lincoln County	466	145	0	27	172	84.3%	0.0%	15.7%	36.9%
Lyon County	2,686	288	37	448	773	37.3%	4.8%	58.0%	28.8%
Mineral County	912	106	30	64	200	53.0%	15.0%	32.0%	21.9%
Nye County	2,201	220	31	232	483	45.5%	6.4%	48.0%	21.9%
Pershing County	617	79	28	76	183	43.2%	15.3%	41.5%	29.7%
Storey County	315	14	11	10	35	40.0%	31.4%	28.6%	11.1%
Washoe County	31,907	2,926	526	2,637	6,089	48.1%	8.6%	43.3%	19.1%
White Pine County	1,221	166	3	175	344	48.3%	0.9%	50.9%	28.2%
Nevada	153,893	20,389	2,452	13,614	36,455	55.9%	6.7%	37.3%	23.7%

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

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Teen Births

Definition

Teen Birth Rate
The Teen Birth Rate is the number of births to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17, per 1,000 females. The data are reported by mother's county of residence, rather than infant's place of birth.

Significance

Teen parenthood reduces life opportunities for both teen mothers and their children. Becoming a parent while still a teenager is difficult because most teen mothers are not married, have not completed high school and are unable to financially support their children.[1]

Risk Factors

At especially high risk of becoming teen parents are teens living in poverty, teens from dysfunctional families and teens not doing well in school.[2] Babies born to teen parents also face a number of risks. Because teen parents have fewer career and educational opportunities, their children are more likely to suffer the devastating effects of poverty including low birth weight, infant mortality, health problems, learning disabilities, child abuse, lack of educational attainment, delinquency and ultimately becoming teen parents themselves.[3]

Impact

- Becoming a teen parent significantly reduces education and employment potential and possibilities. In the United States, three out of five teen mothers drop out of high school.[4]
- The lifetime earnings of teen mothers are less than half those of women who defer childbearing until age twenty.[5]
- Children born to teens are more likely to drop out of school, depend on welfare and become teen parents.[6]

Unmarried Teen Parents

- Because of the strong correlation between single parenthood and poverty, the Unmarried Teen Birth Rate is an important predictor of children's economic well-being. Unmarried teens are much less likely to receive child-support payments which makes it difficult for them to support their children financially.[7]
- Failure in school, emotional problems, truancy, delinquency and substance abuse are significantly more common among the children of unmarried teenage mothers.[8]

Nevada

From 1995 to 1997, the Teen Birth Rate in Nevada was **41** per 1,000 females, ages 15-17. According to the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being*, the Teen Birth Rate in Nevada increased by more than 42 percent between 1985 and 1995.

From 1995 to 1997, the Unmarried Teen Birth Rate in Nevada was **31** per 1,000 females, ages 15-17. It is important to note that **76 percent** of the births to teens in Nevada were births to unmarried teens.

Counties

Of the nine counties in Nevada for which statistically reliable rates could be calculated, the Teen Birth Rate ranged from a low of 10 births per 1,000 females, ages 15-17 in Douglas County to a high of 46 in Carson City. For the eight counties in which calculated rates were not meaningful, raw numbers are provided.

The Unmarried Teen Birth Rate in the nine counties for which statistically reliable rates could be calculated, ranged from a low of 8 in Douglas County to a high of 34 in Clark County.

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 42**[9]

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Teen Birth Rate

Teen Birth Rate, 1995 - 1997 (Births per 1,000 teens, ages 15-17)	1995 Births to Teens	1995 Female Population Ages 15-17**	1996 Births to Teens	1996 Female Population Ages 15-17	1997 Births to Teens	1997 Female Population Ages 15-17	Teen Birth Rates* 1995-1997
Carson City	34	765	35	832	43	847	46
Churchill County	19	464	10	491	15	532	30
Clark County	853	18,878	871	21,009	985	22,235	44
Douglas County	7	770	8	843	11	886	10
Elko County	39	1,037	47	1,119	41	1,180	38
Esmeralda County	0	34	0	32	0	32	N.M. ****
Eureka County	1	38	1	43	0	39	N.M. ****
Humboldt County	22	375	16	386	14	398	45
Lander County	4	190	5	191	6	178	N.M. ****
Lincoln County	2	101	0	106	2	115	N.M. ****
Lyon County	18	571	16	609	20	664	29
Mineral County	12	154	9	161	3	164	N.M. ****
Nye County	12	468	13	532	22	630	29
Pershing County	3	113	7	155	8	158	N.M. ****
Storey County	1	66	0	68	0	75	N.M. ****
Washoe County	195	4,883	193	5,325	190	5,453	37
White Pine County	6	219	13	226	2	228	N.M. ****
Nevada ***	1,241	29,126	1,259	32,128	1,362	33,814	41

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
** *Revised*
*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Unmarried Teen Birth Rate

Unmarried Teen Birth Rate, 1995 - 1997
(Births per 1000 teens, ages 15 - 17)

	1995 Births to Unmarried Teens *	1995 Female Population Ages 15-17**	1996 Births to Unmarried Teens	1996 Female Population Ages 15-17	1997 Births to Unmarried Teens	1997 Female Population Ages 15-17	Unmarried Teen Birth Rates 1995-1997	
Carson City	26	765	30	832	12	847	28	
Churchill County	15	464	8	491	12	532	24	
Clark County	659	18,878	660	21,009	805	22,235	34	
Douglas County	5	770	6	843	9	886	8	
Elko County	1	1,037	28	1,119	23	1,180	16	
Esmeralda County	0	34	0	32	0	32	N.M.	****
Eureka County	0	38	0	43	0	39	N.M.	****
Humboldt County	7	375	11	386	10	398	24	**
Lander County	2	190	2	191	3	178	N.M.	****
Lincoln County	0	101	0	106	1	115	N.M.	****
Lyon County	13	571	12	609	15	664	22	**
Mineral County	11	154	8	161	1	164	N.M.	****
Nye County	10	468	7	532	20	630	23	
Pershing County	2	113	4	155	4	158	N.M.	****
Storey County	1	66	0	68	0	75	N.M.	****
Washoe County	151	4,883	155	5,325	148	5,453	29	
White Pine County	5	219	6	226	2	228	N.M.	****
Nevada ***	926	29,126	937	32,128	1,065	33,814	31	

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
** *Revised*
*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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High School Dropouts and Graduates

Definition

Percent of Students Who Are High School Dropouts and Graduates
This indicator is defined as the percentage of students enrolled in grades 10-12 who drop out of high school or graduate.

Significance

Students who drop out of high school face staggering odds in achieving economic success in the modern world. High school graduation is a minimum prerequisite to compete effectively in today's labor market. In the age of high technology, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to build a life and become a contributing member of society. With each advancing year, the prospects for those who have not completed high school become progressively more bleak.[1]

Risk Factors

Students are more likely to drop out of school when they are poor, when they live in low-income communities and when they come from single-parent families.[2] Early warning signs that a student is at risk are the inability to read at grade level, poor grades, truancy, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.[3]

Impact

- Unemployment rates of high school dropouts are more than twice those of high school graduates.[4]
- The probability of falling into poverty is three times higher for high school dropouts than for those who have finished high school.[5]
- The median personal income of high school graduates, during the prime earning years (ages 25-54), is nearly twice that of high school dropouts. The median personal income of college graduates is more than three times that of high school dropouts.[6]
- The poverty rate for high school dropouts is more than ten times that of college graduates.[7]
- Among prisoners in the United States, 82 percent have not graduated from high school.[8]
- The children of parents who are high school dropouts have a significantly greater chance of also becoming high school dropouts.[9]

Nevada

The percentage of students who were high school dropouts in Nevada for the years 1995-1997 was **12.5** percent. In contrast, **73.5** percent of students in Nevada who enrolled in high school subsequently graduated.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of students who were high school dropouts during this period ranged from a low of 0.0 in Eureka County to a high of 14.8 percent in Clark County. The percentage of students who were high school graduates ranged from a low of 70.8 percent in Clark County to a high of 98.5 percent in Storey County. Overall, Clark County had the highest percentage of high school dropouts at 14.8 and the lowest percentage of high school graduates at 70.8.

"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings."

Hodding Carter

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Percent of High School Dropouts and Graduates

Percent of High School Dropouts and Graduates, 1995 - 1997

	1995 Percent of Dropouts Grades 10-12	1995 Percent of High School Graduates*	1996 Percent of Dropouts Grades 10-12	1996 Percent of High School Graduates*	1997 Percent of Dropouts Grades 10-12	1997 Percent of High School Graduates*	Percent of Dropouts 1995-1997	Percent of Graduates* 1995-1997
Carson City	7.7%	74.1%	6.8%	81.7%	7.5%	78.9%	7.3%	78.2%
Churchill County	11.8%	83.3%	10.5%	81.0%	9.6%	80.5%	10.7%	81.6%
Clark County	15.2%	70.7%	13.9%	70.5%	15.3%	71.3%	14.8%	70.8%
Douglas County	3.7%	73.3%	3.8%	73.8%	3.6%	78.2%	3.7%	75.1%
Elko County	7.5%	91.2%	6.2%	85.0%	6.0%	85.8%	6.6%	87.3%
Esmeralda County **	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eureka County	0.0%	93.3%	0.0%	82.4%	0.0%	88.5%	0.0%	88.0%
Humboldt County	7.1%	83.4%	8.0%	81.5%	6.4%	82.6%	7.1%	82.5%
Lander County	9.1%	76.7%	9.5%	88.2%	8.1%	79.2%	8.9%	81.4%
Lincoln County	0.6%	75.2%	1.5%	83.0%	0.9%	83.8%	1.0%	80.6%
Lyon County	8.4%	77.6%	9.8%	82.0%	9.1%	78.5%	9.1%	79.3%
Mineral County	8.9%	86.1%	7.3%	81.3%	8.3%	75.4%	8.1%	80.9%
Nye County	8.5%	87.8%	7.0%	80.3%	8.4%	82.1%	8.0%	83.4%
Pershing County	3.4%	81.1%	5.5%	87.0%	6.2%	88.9%	5.0%	85.6%
Storey County	10.7%	88.6%	7.5%	103.3%	6.3%	103.5%	8.1%	98.5%
Washoe County	10.6%	74.1%	10.6%	74.0%	11.0%	74.2%	10.7%	74.1%
White Pine County	7.1%	86.5%	2.0%	87.1%	9.5%	76.7%	6.2%	83.4%
Nevada	12.8%	73.5%	11.9%	73.4%	12.9%	73.8%	12.5%	73.5%

* *This column refers to Seniors only. See Definitions and Data Sources.*

** *Esmeralda students grades 9 - 12 attend school in neighboring Nye County.*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Education, Planning, Research and Evaluation Branch.

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Teens Not in School and Not Working

Definition

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working
The Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working reflects the percentage of teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full-time or part-time) are not employed and are not in the military.

Significance

Teens who are not attending school and not working for extended periods of time may become disconnected from society because they are not engaged in any of the key activities critical to development in late adolescence.[1] Gaps in schooling and lack of general preparation for the workforce also place teens at considerable risk as they make the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood.[2]

Risk Factors

Teens who are not in school and not working are at increased risk of juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy and lifelong poverty. Teens who have dropped out of high school are most vulnerable and at greatest risk.[3]

Impact

- Appropriate work experience is crucial during late adolescence. Young people who have no work experience will face enormous challenges finding and keeping jobs later in their lives.

- Teens with few skills and little education encounter many obstacles and few opportunities as they attempt to progress from earning minimum wage to earning enough to adequately support themselves and their families.[4]

- Low-level skills and low-level wages make it extremely difficult for young men and women to prosper, to support their families or even to develop a standard of living that will raise them above the poverty threshold.[5]

- When young people have been out of the mainstream and are disconnected from society for three or more years, it is estimated that 37 percent of young women and 35 percent of young men are at significantly increased risk of giving birth to or fathering a child before they reach the age of 18.[6]

Nevada

The Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working in Nevada is 7.6 percent. Of the 59,919 teens between the ages of 16 and 19 in Nevada, 4,564 teens were not in school and not working.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of teens not in school and not working ranged from a low of 1.3 percent in Lincoln County to a high of 18.3 percent in Esmeralda County. Again, it should be noted that when the calculated percentages are based on small numbers they should be viewed with caution.

Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 43[7]

"Children are the key to holding society together because without them, any community is just one generation away from extinction."[8]

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working

Percent of Teens Who Are Not in School and Not Working (Ages 16-19)

	Teens Not in School and Not Working	Population Ages 16-19	Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working
Carson City	103	1,861	5.5%
Churchill County	17	937	1.8%
Clark County	2,861	37,065	7.7%
Douglas County	45	1,138	4.0%
Elko County	173	1,950	8.9%
Esmeralda County	13	71	18.3% *
Eureka County	5	54	9.3%
Humboldt County	25	636	3.9%
Lander County	45	368	12.2%
Lincoln County	3	235	1.3%
Lyon County	110	1,005	10.9%
Mineral County	52	434	12.0%
Nye County	79	809	9.8%
Pershing County	19	208	9.1%
Storey County	15	98	15.3% *
Washoe County	945	12,657	7.5%
White Pine County	54	393	13.7%
Nevada	4,564	59,919	7.6%

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Child Deaths

Definition

Child Death Rate
The Child Death Rate is the number of deaths (from all causes) of children between the ages of 1 and 14, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, rather than by place of death.

Significance

The Child Death Rate is an indication of the physical health of children, the dangers children are exposed to at home and in the community and the level of adult supervision children receive.[83] Once children survive the first year of life, child mortality decreases significantly.[84]

Risk Factors

Poverty is the foremost predictor of injury to children. Overall, lack of parental education, inadequate prenatal care, lack of health insurance, low birth weight, premature birth, substandard living conditions, substance abuse, child maltreatment, single-parent households and lack of adult supervision are additional risk factors that influence and are associated with child deaths.[85]

Impact

- The Child Death Rate reflects the risks that are fatal to children including health problems, exposure to hazardous conditions, preventable injuries and child abuse and neglect.[86]
- Unintentional injuries remain the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4.[87]
- As a result of technological advances in medical treatment and procedures, the Child Death Rate in the United States has decreased during the past several years.[88]
- According to the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, in 1995, 14,989 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in the United States. This means that 28 out of every 100,000 children in this age range died.[89]
- Most unintentional injuries to children result from parents having a lack of understanding about the ages and stages of child development and about basic safety practices.[90]
- Many child deaths and unintentional injuries to children are preventable.

Nevada

Between 1995 and 1997, the Child Death Rate in Nevada was **28** per 100,000 children. During this period, 290 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Nevada. According to the *1998 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles in Child Well-Being*, the 1995 Child Death Rate in the United States was 28 per 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14.

Counties

In all counties except Clark and Washoe, calculated rates were not meaningful because the data were based on small numbers. In those counties for which this was the case, raw numbers are provided.

In Clark County, the Child Death Rate during this period was 27 per 100,000 children. During the same period, the Child Death Rate in Washoe County was 23 per 100,000 children.

- **Nevada's 1998 National Rank: 35** [91]

"Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of death and disability for children in the United States." [92]

Child Death Rate

Child Deaths and Death Rate, 1995 - 1997

(Deaths per 100,000 children, ages 1-14)

	1995 Child Deaths	1995 Population Ages 1-14	1996 Child Deaths	1996 Population Ages 1-14	1997 Child Deaths	1997 Population Ages 1-14	Child Death Rates 1995-1997
Carson City	0	8,353	3	8,755	4	9,365	N.M. ***
Churchill County	0	4,575	1	4,742	1	5,226	N.M. ***
Clark County	58	212,595	61	229,657	69	252,458	27
Douglas County	2	7,175	0	7,380	1	7,259	N.M. ***
Elko County	4	10,464	7	10,860	0	11,716	N.M. ***
Esmeralda County	0	301	0	272	0	226	N.M. ***
Eureka County	1	324	0	334	1	323	N.M. ***
Humboldt County	1	3,736	2	3,684	2	4,201	N.M. ***
Lander County	0	1,612	1	1,587	0	1,796	N.M. ***
Lincoln County	0	858	0	812	0	761	N.M. ***
Lyon County	6	5,442	7	5,739	2	6,198	N.M. ***
Mineral County	0	1,429	0	1,457	0	1,425	N.M. ***
Nye County	3	4,362	1	4,720	5	4,982	N.M. ***
Pershing County	3	1,268	1	1,517	0	1,589	N.M. ***
Storey County	0	598	0	624	0	546	N.M. ***
Washoe County	14	57,953	13	60,668	14	62,233	23 *
White Pine County	1	1,997	1	2,083	0	2,083	N.M. ***
Nevada **	93	322,534	98	344,530	99	372,387	28

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

*** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Child Abuse and Neglect

Definition

Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate
Child abuse is defined as the non-accidental injury or pattern of injuries to a child under the age of 18. Child abuse includes physical injury, neglect, emotional abuse and sexual molestation. In Nevada, child abuse and neglect reports are divided into three outcome classifications: ***Substantiated***, ***Unsubstantiated*** and ***Unknown***.[1]

Significance

The consequences of child abuse and neglect are overwhelming. Child maltreatment can result in death, permanent disability, delayed development, mental and behavioral problems, teen pregnancy, criminal behavior, depression and suicide.[2]

Risk Factors

Children are at risk of child maltreatment if their parents are overburdened by multiple problems including poverty, unemployment, substandard living conditions, single parenthood, isolation, domestic violence and substance abuse. The potential for abuse is greatly increased if the parents were abused as children themselves and if they have poor parenting skills or unrealistic expectations of their child.[3]

Impact

- The impact of child abuse on children, families and society is profound and devastating. Three children die each day in the United States, as a result of child abuse and neglect.[4]
- The vast majority of children who die from child maltreatment are very young: 82 percent of the victims are under the age of five and 42 percent are less than one year old at the time of their death.[5]
- The economic consequences of child abuse and neglect are staggering. Each year, it costs the nation an estimated $9 billion dollars to deal with the tragic and far-reaching consequences of child maltreatment.[6]
- Research indicates that parents who were abused as children are at significantly higher risk of abusing their own children.[7]
- Children who have been abused are more likely to perform poorly in school, to commit crimes against persons and to have emotional and substance abuse problems.[8]
- Ninety percent of juvenile offenders and adult prisoners report that they were abused as children.[9]

Nevada

In 1997, the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate in Nevada was **33.9** per 1,000 children, under age 18. Overall, there were 14,685 reported cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.

The 1997 substantiated child abuse and neglect rate in Nevada was **12.0** per 1,000 children, under age 18. Of the 14,685 reported cases of child abuse and neglect, 5,204 were substantiated.

Counties

Excluding the two counties (Esmeralda and Eureka) whose calculated rates were not meaningful because they were based on small numbers, the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate ranged from a low of 22.2 in Nye County to a high of 78.3 in White Pine County. The Substantiated Child Abuse Rate ranged from a low of 6.2 in Douglas County to a high of 29.6 in Pershing County.

"The decisions caseworkers make every day would challenge King Solomon, yet most of them lack Solomon's wisdom, few enjoy his credibility with the public and none command his resources."[10]

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Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate

1997 Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate*
(Reports per 1,000 children, ages 17 or less)

	Total Reports	Substantiated**	Unsubstantiated**	Unknown**	Population Ages 17 or Less	Substantiated Child Abuse Rates	Reported Child Abuse Rates
Carson City	594	159	416	19	10,917	14.6	54.4
Churchill County	460	86	354	20	6,147	14.0	74.8
Clark County	8,125	3,421	4,298	406	293,164	11.7	27.7
Douglas County	232	52	170	10	8,431	6.2	27.5
Elko County	462	121	308	33	13,628	8.9	33.9
Esmeralda County	6	3	3	0	267	N.M. ****	N.M. ****
Eureka County	11	1	10	0	382	N.M. ****	N.M. ****
Humboldt County	154	47	99	8	4,896	9.6	31.5
Lander County	113	20	84	9	2,102	9.5	53.8
Lincoln County	24	12	12	0	918	13.1 ***	26.1 ***
Lyon County	409	84	305	20	7,203	11.7	56.8
Mineral County	119	31	76	12	1,658	18.7	71.8
Nye County	131	44	78	9	5,903	7.5	22.2
Pershing County	102	54	42	6	1,823	29.6	56.0
Storey County	20	6	11	3	630	9.5 ***	31.7 ***
Washoe County	3,532	1,022	2,133	377	72,355	14.1	48.8
White Pine County	191	41	144	6	2,438	16.8	78.3
Nevada	14,685	5,204	8,543	938	432,862	12.0	33.9

* *Reported by county of occurrence*
** *See Definitions and Data Sources*
*** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services

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Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

Nevada Child Maltreatment Report Trends
Percent Change 1987-1997

	1987	1997	% Change
Unknown	263	938	72%
Unsubstantiated	3,464	8,543	59%
Substantiated	3,806	5,204	27%
Total Reports	7,533	14,685	49%

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources: Division of Child and Family Services, 1997

Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiated Cases, 1997
Percent and Type of Child Maltreatment

Type of Maltreatment	# Incidents to Children	Percent of Total Incidents
Physical Neglect	1,965	17.1%
Lack of Supervision	2,528	22.0%
Educational Neglect	237	2.1%
Medical Neglect	292	2.5%
Abandonment	304	2.6%
Emotional Abuse/Neglect	467	4.1%
Minor Physical Injury	1,429	12.4%
Major Physical Injury	72	0.6%
Sex Abuse/Exploitation	302	2.6%
Other	3,896	33.9%
Fatal	18	0.2%
Total	11,510 *	

* *Reports frequently include multiple types of maltreatment and more than a single incident*
Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources: Division of Child and Family Services, 1997

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Juvenile Violent Crime

Definition

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate
The Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate reflects the rate at which youths between the ages of 10 and 17 are arrested for violent crimes. In Nevada, juvenile violent crime includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Significance

Most of adolescent misbehavior reflects boundary-testing and experimentation with adult roles. However, being arrested for a violent crime is clearly a negative outcome for a young person and could have long-term consequences that last a lifetime.

Risk Factors

Risk factors for juvenile violent crime include poverty, lack of education, limited job skills, a history of child abuse and neglect, family violence and inadequate supervision. Additional risk factors that also have been linked to juvenile violent crime are poor school performance, chronic truancy and prior criminal history.

Impact

- Juveniles who are jailed in adult facilities are 8 times more likely to commit suicide, 5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted, 2 times more likely to be assaulted by staff and 50 percent more likely to be attacked with a weapon.
- Despite public perception, juvenile violent crime arrest rates have actually declined by more than 12 percent since 1994.
- Children are at much greater risk of being victims of violent crime than perpetrators of violent crime.
- Most law enforcement officials believe crime could be sharply reduced if the government invested more money and commitment in prevention programs to help children and youth now.
- Prevention works and is cost-effective. Research continues to confirm that prevention programs including parent support, graduation incentives and early intervention, coupled with investments in families, schools and communities, prevent more serious crime per dollar spent than incarceration measures.

Nevada

The Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate in Nevada from 1995 to 1997 was **362** arrests per 100,000 youth, ages 10-17. During this period, there were 1,948 juvenile violent crime arrests of youth between the ages of 10 and 17.

Counties

In all counties, except Clark and Washoe, calculated rates were not meaningful as the data were based on small numbers.

In Clark County, the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate from 1995 to 1997 was 417 arrests per 100,000 youth. During the same period, the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate in Washoe County was 307.

Nevada: 1998 National Rank: 25

"The teens of 2010 are babies, toddlers and preschoolers now. To stop future violent crime, children need strong schools, positive after-school activities and families with good jobs now."

Children's Defense Fund, 1998

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Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate

Juvenile Violent Crime* Arrest Rate, 1995 - 1997

(Arrests per 100,000 teens, ages 10-17)

	1995 Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests	1995 Population Ages 10-17	1996 Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests	1996 Population Ages 10-17	1997 Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests	1997 Population Ages 10-17	Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rates 1995-1997
Carson City	26	4,519	16	4,866	40	5,047	N.M. ****
Churchill County	0	2,687	3	2,843	1	2,964	N.M. ****
Clark County	478	106,147	466	118,039	519	126,962	417
Douglas County	5	4,135	3	4,507	6	4,778	N.M. ****
Elko County	14	5,939	13	6,425	13	6,640	N.M. ****
Esmeralda County	1	173	0	160	0	163	N.M. ****
Eureka County	0	181	0	198	0	209	N.M. ****
Humboldt County	10	2,170	5	2,228	1	2,308	N.M. ****
Lander County	2	946	0	984	0	985	N.M. ****
Lincoln County	0	563	0	561	0	570	N.M. ****
Lyon County	0	3,250	1	3,596	3	3,827	N.M. ****
Mineral County	0	807	4	839	2	846	N.M. ****
Nye County	14	2,518	8	2,845	9	3,143	N.M. ****
Pershing County	3	676	2	871	1	907	N.M. ****
Storey County	0	346	0	361	0	395	N.M. ****
Washoe County	86	28,525	97	30,795	96	31,440	307 **
White Pine County	0	1,224	0	1,312	0	1,327	N.M. ****
Nevada ***	639	164,836	618	181,430	691	192,511	362

* *Juvenile Violent Crime includes: Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault*

** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Nevada Highway Patrol Records and Identification Services

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Teen Violent Deaths

Definition

Teen Violent Death Rate
The Teen Violent Death Rate is the number of deaths from homicides, suicide, and accidents, per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. The data are reported by county of residence, rather than by where the death occurred.

Significance

The teen years are a time in which teens of all ages confront increased health and safety risks. While there is a public perception that teen violence in the United States is increasing rapidly, it is noteworthy that accidents actually account for twice as many teen deaths than any other source.[113] Although there has been a steady decline in teen deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, this reduction has been offset by a marked increase in the number of teen deaths due to homicide.[114]

Risk Factors

Research indicates that poverty, the increased availability of handguns, the rise in gang activity and the increase in teens who drive automobiles are all risk factors associated with teen violent death.[115]

Impact

- Automobile accidents, homicides and suicides are the leading causes of violent death among teens in the United States.[116]
- In the United States, 3 out of 4 homicides and 2 out of 3 suicide victims, under the age of 25, die from gunshot wounds.[117]
- African-American teens have the highest homicide rates in the United States, followed by Hispanic teens who have the second-highest rates.[118]

Teen Suicide

- Native American teens have the highest suicide rates of any group in the United States.[119]
- Firearms are the most frequently used weapon in suicides. The average medical cost for treating a youth with a gunshot wound is estimated to be $14,000. This amount does not include physician charges or rehabilitation charges.[120]
- More than 30 percent of teen suicides in America are committed by gay and lesbian teens.[121]

Nevada

The Teen Violent Death Rate in Nevada from 1995 to 1997 was **71** deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. During this period, a total of 220 teens between the ages of 15 and 19 died as a result of homicide, suicide or accident.

The Teen Suicide Rate in Nevada during the same period was **16** deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19.

Counties

In all counties except Clark and Washoe, calculated rates were not meaningful as the data were based on small numbers. To assist counties where calculated rates were not meaningful, raw data are provided.

In Clark County, the Teen Violent Death Rate from 1995 to 1997 was 71 deaths per 100,000 teens between the ages of 15 and 19. During the same period, the Teen Violent Death Rate in Washoe County was 68 per 100,000 teens.

For the same reasons discussed above, the Teen Suicide Rate was calculated only for Clark and Washoe counties. In Clark County, the Teen Suicide Rate from 1995 to 1997 was 14 deaths per 100,000 teens. During the same period, the Teen Suicide Rate in Washoe County was 21 deaths per 100,000 teens.

Teen Violent Death Rate

Teen Violent Death Rate,* 1995 -1997 (Deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19)							
	1995 Teen Violent Deaths	1995 Population Ages 15-19	1996 Teen Violent Deaths	1996 Population Ages 15-19	1997 Teen Violent Deaths	1997 Population Ages 15-19	Teen Violent Death * Rates
Carson City	0	2,611	0	2,827	1	2,935	N.M. ****
Churchill County	2	1,577	2	1,707	1	1,750	N.M. ****
Clark County	42	61,331	52	67,873	49	72,897	71
Douglas County	2	2,480	3	2,720	2	2,947	N.M. ****
Elko County	5	3,451	4	3,745	0	3,963	N.M. ****
Esmeralda County	0	107	0	104	0	107	N.M. ****
Eureka County	0	125	0	129	1	117	N.M. ****
Humboldt County	2	1,253	2	1,315	0	1,412	N.M. ****
Lander County	1	580	0	611	0	627	N.M. ****
Lincoln County	0	363	0	384	0	393	N.M. ****
Lyon County	1	1,923	0	2,126	1	2,261	N.M. ****
Mineral County	1	486	0	525	0	553	N.M. ****
Nye County	1	1,525	0	1,769	5	1,982	N.M. ****
Pershing County	0	384	0	488	1	514	N.M. ****
Storey County	0	220	0	233	0	246	N.M. ****
Washoe County	14	16,205	12	17,478	9	17,861	68 **
White Pine County	4	748	0	809	0	823	N.M. ****
Nevada ***	75	95,384	75	104,843	70	111,388	71

* *Teen Violent Deaths includes: homicide, suicide and accidents*
** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
**** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Teen Suicide Rate

Teen Suicide Death Rate, 1995 - 1997
(Deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19)

	1995 Teen Suicide Deaths	1995 Population Ages 15-19	1996 Teen Suicide Deaths	1996 Population Ages 15-19	1997 Teen Suicide Deaths	1997 Population Ages 15-19	Teen Suicide Death Rates 1995-1997
Carson City	0	2,611	0	2,827	0	2,935	N.M. ***
Churchill County	0	1,577	0	1,707	1	1,750	N.M. ***
Clark County	11	61,331	9	67,873	8	72,897	14
Douglas County	1	2,480	0	2,720	1	2,947	N.M. ***
Elko County	4	3,451	0	3,745	0	3,963	N.M. ***
Esmeralda County	0	107	0	104	0	107	N.M. ***
Eureka County	0	125	0	129	0	117	N.M. ***
Humboldt County	0	1,253	0	1,315	0	1,412	N.M. ***
Lander County	1	580	0	611	0	627	N.M. ***
Lincoln County	0	363	0	384	0	393	N.M. ***
Lyon County	0	1,923	0	2,126	1	2,261	N.M. ***
Mineral County	0	486	0	525	0	553	N.M. ***
Nye County	0	1,525	0	1,769	0	1,982	N.M. ***
Pershing County	0	384	0	488	0	514	N.M. ***
Storey County	0	220	0	233	0	246	N.M. ***
Washoe County	6	16,205	4	17,478	1	17,861	21 *
White Pine County	1	748	0	809	0	823	N.M. ***
Nevada **	24	95,384	13	104,843	12	111,388	16

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
*** *N.M. = not meaningful. Calculated rates based on very small numbers are not statistically reliable*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Endnotes

Definitions and Data Sources

The 1998 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book provides data on sixteen indicators of child well-being in five areas that affect the lives of Nevada's children: **Health, Economic Well-Being, Education, Child Safety** and **Juvenile Justice**.

What is New in the Data Book

Nevada Demographic Profile: This year, to provide a more complete perspective on the indicators, a new section has been added to the Data Book. The Nevada Demographic Profile provides an overview of relevant demographic information on the state of Nevada and a demographic profile of the children and families in Nevada.

Multi-Year Rolling Averages: The atypical population distribution in Nevada creates a serious "rare event" problem in many counties. New this year is the use of multi-year rolling averages to help stabilize rates wherever possible.

How Each Indicator is Organized

Definition: A description of what the indicator is and what it measures.

Significance: An overview of why the indicator is important to children.

Risk Factors: A discussion of dangers that could place children in harm's way.

Impact: A context for understanding how the indicator effects children and society.

County Tables: County by county data for each indicator are presented including totals for the state as a whole.

Limitations of the Data

It is important to recognize that no data are perfect and in any data collection process there may be concerns about the accuracy of the data. In all cases, the best available data were used. It should be noted that in some data tables, the sum of the county data may not equal the state total due to rounding and/or missing county reference data. In these cases, an explanatory footnote is included. Because rates based on small denominators are statistically unreliable, rates were not calculated for counties with small denominators. Instead, the designation N.M. = not meaningful is noted in the table. Raw data are provided wherever possible.

Health

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data are reported by mother's county of residence, not infant's place of birth.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by county of residence, not place of death.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Economic Well-Being

Percent of Children in Poverty is the percentage of children under 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Only children who live in a household where they are related to the householder are included in this analysis. These "related children" include the householder's children by birth, marriage or adoption, as well as other persons under the age of 18, who are related to the head of household.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, 1994; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Applied Population Laboratory, 1994, in a report prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Percent of Families with Children Headed by a Single Parent is the percentage of all families with "own children" under age 18 that are headed by a person-male or female-without a spouse present in the home. "Own children" are never-married children under age 18 who are related to the household head (referred to as the householder by the U.S. Bureau of the Census) by birth, marriage or adoption.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A.

Definitions and Data Sources

Percent of Families in Poverty is the percentage of families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold including the percentage of families in poverty that are: female-headed, male-headed and two-parent families. A family consists of a householder and one or more persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. The poverty threshold in 1989 for a family of four persons was $12,674.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Tape File 3A.

Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-17 (births per 1,000 females) is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 17 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence. This measure of teen births focuses on all girls ages 15-17, regardless of marital status.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Unmarried Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-17 (births per 1,000 females) is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 17 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence. This measure of teen births focuses on unmarried females ages 15-17.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Education

Percent of Students Who Are High School Dropouts and Graduates is the percentage of students enrolled in grades 10-12 who drop out of high school or graduate.

SOURCE: Nevada Department of Education, Planning Research and Evaluation 1995, 1996, 1997.

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working, Ages 16-19 is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full-time or part-time) and not employed (full-time or part-time).

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A.

Child Safety

Child Death Rate, Ages 1-14 (deaths per 100,000 children) is the number of deaths of children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate is the number of reports of child abuse and neglect, per 1,000 children ages 17 or less. The **Substantiated Child Abuse Rate** is the number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under the age of 18. The term *Unknown* means that a final determination or substantiation of child abuse could not be made.

Child Maltreatment Report Trends is the number of child abuse reports between 1987 and 1997 and the percentage of change over time.

Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiated Cases: Percent and Type of Child Maltreatment is the number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect and the type of maltreatment involved.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family and Family Services, 1997.

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate, Ages 10-17 (arrests per 100,000 youths) is the number of arrests of youths under age 18 for violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault), per 100,000 youths between ages 10 and 17. The annual arrest figures include all arrests of youths for violent offenses during the year, including repeated arrests of the same individual for different offenses.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Nevada Public Highways Patrol Records and Identification Services, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Teen Violent Death Rate, Ages 15-19 (deaths per 100,000 teens) is the number of deaths from homicide, suicide and accidents of teens between ages 15 and 19 per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data are reported by place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

Teen Suicide Rate, Ages 15-19 (deaths per 100,000 teens) is the number of deaths from suicide of teens between ages 15 and 19 per 100,000 teens in this age group.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Nevada Demographic Profile Sources

Nevada State Demographer: *State Population, Clark County Population, Washoe County Population, Child Population, Percent of Children, Percent of Poor Children, Number of Children, Demographic Change, Age Distribution: Nevada and Counties, Race/Ethnic Distribution: Nevada and Counties and Race/Ethnicity of Children.*

Nevada Office of Vital Records and Statistics: *Median Household Income, Per Capita Income, Percent of Public Aid Recipients, Retail Sales Per Household, Enrollment Rate, Percent Employed, Annual Teachers Salary and Homeownership Rate.*

Children's Defense Fund: *Percent of Children Immunized, Percent of Children Without Health Insurance, Percent of Children Covered by Medicaid and Number of Children in Foster Care.*

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Progress for Nevada's Children

Nevada KIDS COUNT
celebrates the good news for children

1997 Nevada State Legislature:
Support for the Children of Nevada

Family to Family Connection Program: AB 378
Provides $9,321,958 in community block grants to community organizations for services to families with newborns

Kindergarten Completion: AB 6
Requires completion of kindergarten as a prerequisite for first grade

Nevada Even Start Family Literacy Program
Provides $1,830,255 to the Department of Education for early childhood education and provides funds for family literacy programs

Special Education Funding
Provides $113,705,168 to fund special education and family literacy programs

Classroom on Wheels
Provides $177,975 for purchase and renovation of school buses for preschool programs in Clark and Washoe counties

Dental Programs: SB 497
Provides support for a dental residency program and clinic at the Community College of Southern Nevada and provides funds for children's dental care assistance

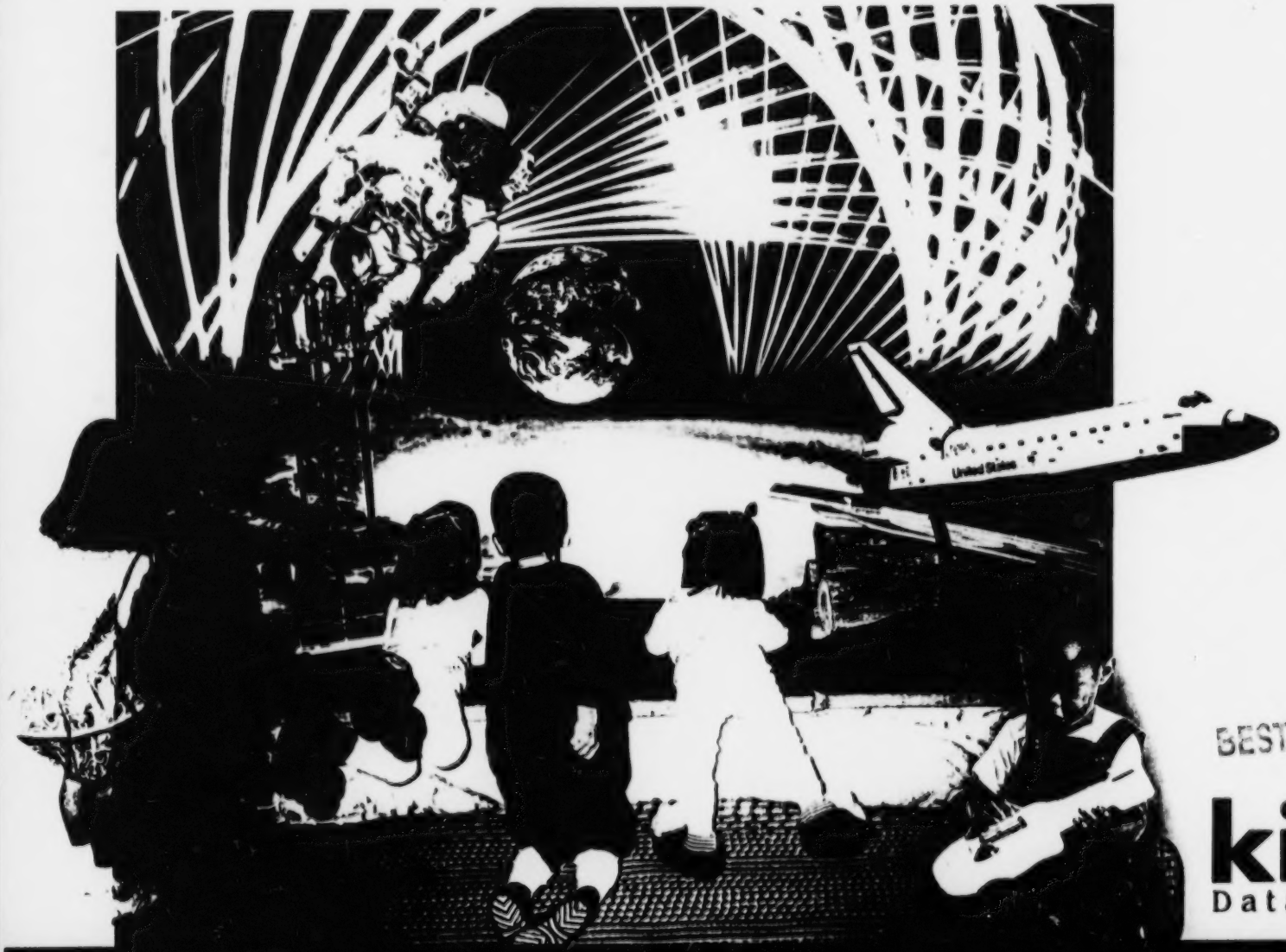
Growth of Nevada

For the 12th consecutive year, Nevada was the fastest-growing state in the nation. From 1996 to 1997, the population increased by 4.8 percent.

The Las Vegas MSA was the fastest-growing metropolitan area from 1990-1996, with a 41 percent increase in the population.

Source: Nevada State Library and Archives, 1998 and the Nevada State Demographer

Photo courtesy of Landiscor



"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in."

-Graham Green

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NEVADA kids count Data Book 1998

JD GRAPHICS

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